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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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BANK BRANCH MANAGER INDICTED FOR EMBEZZLING OVER \$200,000

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that a federal grand jury has indicted Natalie Marie Pearson, 29, Fallston, Maryland for embezzlement of over \$200,000 committed while Pearson was branch manager of M&T Bank located at 8812 Walthen Road, Baltimore, MD. The nine count indictment charges Pearson with embezzling and misapplying bank funds to her own benefit between July and September 2003.

Each count carries a maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment and/or \$1 million fine plus restitution. Pearson is scheduled for arraignment on June 25, 2004 at 11:00 a.m.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joyce K. McDonald.